

Hobbies

Rosemont is site of dealers' 100th anniversary convention

By Roger Boye

Hundreds of rare-coin dealers are expected to converge on suburban Rosemont Aug. 13-18 for what could prove to be the largest coin show in U.S. history—the American Numismatic Association's 100th anniversary convention.

The dealers will do business in Exhibit Hall A of the Rosemont-O'Hare Exposition Center, 5555 N. River Road. Merchandise on sale will range from wheat pennies and silver certificate \$1 bills to extremely rare ancient coins and gold pieces, a treasure-trove of money collectibles.

"You name it, we'll have it at the bourse," said Stephen Bob-

bitt, ANA spokesman. Many of the dealers also will buy old coins and related items.

Nearly 450 companies have rented table space for the "World's Fair of Money," and the ANA expects an average of three persons to work at each table. The exhibit hall—about the size of two football fields—will be divided with 11 aisles numbered "100" to "1100" to accommodate what could be up to 30,000 collectors over the six days.

(Many dealers along aisles 100, 200 and 300 will sell coins and paper money valued at no more than \$250 per item, an attempt to cater to hobbyists with thin pocketbooks.)

The 1,300 or more dealers will come from almost every state

and 10 foreign countries, and will include many of the respected names in the business. Nearly 25 tables will be staffed by Illinois-based pros.

Exhibit Hall A also will house booths set up by 16 mints from around the world. Clerks at the United States Mint booth will distribute a free poster commemorating the ANA anniversary and the mint's 200th birthday.

The convention bourse will be open from noon until 7 p.m. on Aug. 13, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Aug. 14-16, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Aug. 17 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 18 at the Rosemont-O'Hare Exposition Center.

Admission is free to the bourse and related convention events, but everyone must register in the

North Lobby outside Exhibit Hall A. The ANA will provide a free program that includes a map of the bourse area.

Persons wanting extra maps or assistance should go to the ANA tables in Exhibit Hall A to the right of the main entrance.

Also at the convention, Auctions by Bowers and Merena Inc. of Wolfeboro, N.H., will sell nearly 3,500 lots of rare coins and related collectibles in a five-part auction, with sessions beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 14, and 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 15 and 16 in Rosemont Ballroom C of the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 Bryn Mawr Ave. Among the rarities to be sold are an 1814 half dollar struck in platinum (one of three known) and

the first copy of the first edition (1947) of "A Guide Book of U.S. Coins" by R. S. Yeoman, the most popular numismatic reference ever published.



During the ANA convention, U.S. Postal Service clerks will sell a new commemorative stamp honoring numismatics and make first-day-of-issue cancellations.

The 29-cent stamp depicts parts of two "greenbacks" and two coins, an 1858 "flying eagle" cent and a gold piece.

The ANA—the nation's largest organization of coin collectors with about 31,000 members—was founded in Chicago in 1891. Its offices now are in Colorado Springs, Colo.